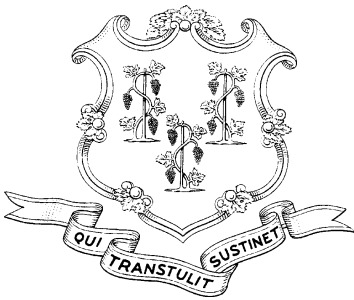


# New Connecticut Cell Phone Laws



**M. Jodi Rell**  
Governor

**Ralph J. Carpenter**  
Commissioner

**State of Connecticut  
Department of Motor Vehicles  
60 State Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06161**

**[ct.gov/dmv](http://ct.gov/dmv)**

---

---

Beginning October 1, 2005, drivers face stricter laws governing the use of cell phones and mobile electronic devices.

- Drivers 18 years of age and older need hands-free accessories to legally use cell phones or mobile electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle.
- New drivers who are 16 or 17 years of age are restricted from using any type of cell phone or mobile electronic device while driving, even with hands-free accessories.

The exceptions to this new law include:

- A cell phone or mobile electronic device may be used, by a driver of any age, in an emergency situation, when contacting an emergency response operator, a hospital, physician's office, health clinic, ambulance company or fire or police department.
- Drivers who are 18 years of age and older who are peace officers, firefighters or ambulance drivers may use hand-held cell phones and electronic devices.

The act defines a 'mobile electronic device' as any hand-held or other portable electronic equipment capable of providing data communication between two or more people. Included are devices for text messaging or paging, personal digital assistants, laptop computers, equipment capable of playing video games or digital video disks, or equipment on which digital photographs are taken or transmitted. A mobile electronic device does not include audio equipment or any equipment installed in the vehicle to provide navigation, emergency, or other assistance to the driver or video entertainment to passengers in the vehicle's rear seats.